

PD Dr. Anna-Lisa Müller

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I am a social geographer and cultural sociologist working in the fields of international migration and urban development. My research focusses amongst others on the interdependencies of society, space and (material) culture and on advancing qualitative research methods.

Professional Biography

- 10/2025–9/2026 **Visiting Professor for Gender and Migration**, Faculty of Architecture and Landscape Sciences, Leibniz University Hannover (Germany)
- 2025–2027 **Project leader**, “Gesellschaftliche Räume der Migration (GeRäuMig)” (with Dr. Mert Pekşen (IMIS)), collaborative research project within DeZIM (Deutsches Zentrum für Integrations- und Migrationsforschung)
- Since 10/2021 [currently on leave] **Senior Researcher**, Institute for interdisciplinary Research on Conflict and Violence (IKG), Bielefeld University (Germany)
- 2022–2024 **Project leader**, “Räume der Migrationsgesellschaft (RäuMig)” (with Prof. Dr. Andreas Pott (IMIS) & Prof. Dr. Andreas Zick (IKG)), collaborative research project within DeZIM (Deutsches Zentrum für Integrations- und Migrationsforschung)
- 4–7/2021 **Fellow**, residency program of the Schader-Stiftung, Darmstadt (Germany)
- 2020–2021 **Deputy Professor**, Department of Geography, University of Heidelberg (Germany)
- 2019–2020 **Senior Researcher**, Institute for Intercultural Research and Migration Studies (IMIS), Osnabrück University (Germany)
- 2013–2019 **Senior Researcher**, Department of Geography, University of Bremen (Germany)
Habilitation (major research project): International Migration, Place-Attachment and Materiality. On Socio-spatial Belongings of International Transmigrants
- 2–4/2017 **Visiting Academic**, Department of Geography, Durham University (UK)
- 2012–2013 **Research Assistant**, Research Group *Urban Metamorphoses*, HafenCity University Hamburg (Germany)
- 2013 **PhD**, Bielefeld University (Germany) | grade: “summa cum laude”
- 2012–2013 **Fellow**, residency program *Scholars in Residence*, Goethe-Institut with Institute for Advanced Study in the Humanities (KWI) (Germany & Egypt)
- 2010–2012 **Scholarship Holder & PhD candidate**, *Bielefeld Graduate School in History and Sociology*, Bielefeld University (Germany)
PhD thesis: “Green Creative Cities. Zur Gestaltung eines Stadttypus des 21. Jahrhunderts”
- 2007–2010 **Research Assistant**, Cluster of Excellence 16 *Cultural Foundations of Integration*, Department of Sociology, chair of Prof. Dr. Andreas Reckwitz, University of Constance (Germany)
- 2000–2007 **M.A.**, sociology, German literature and philosophy, University of Constance (Germany) and University of Växjö (Sweden)
Master’s thesis: “Subjekt, Sprache und Macht bei Judith Butler” (published in 2009)

Key Publications

- 2025 “GeoTandems: Conditions for Success and Challenges of Cross-Locational Team Teaching”. In: *Journal of Geography in Higher Education* 49(4), pp. 557–571 (with Ivo Mossig, Carmen Cordes, Carolin Klüsener)

- 2024 *Migration? Frag doch einfach! Klare Antworten aus erster Hand*. München: utb.
- 2023 “Buycotting to save the neighbourhood? exploring the altered meaning of social infrastructures of consumption during the Covid-19 crisis in Linden, Hannover, Germany”. In: *Social & Cultural Geography* 24(3-4), pp. 640-660 (with Leonie Tuitjer and Gesine Tuitjer).
- 2020 “Re-thinking urban infrastructures as spaces of learning”. In: *Geography Compass* 15(1), pp. e12552 (with Leonie Tuitjer).
- 2019b “Arbeitsbezogene Migration von Hochqualifizierten – ein Plädoyer für eine geographische Perspektive”. In: *Geographische Zeitschrift* 107(4), Vol. 91, pp. 305-327 (with Jörg Plöger).
- 2019a *Migration, Materialität und Identität. Verortungen zwischen Hier und Dort*. Stuttgart: Franz Steiner Verlag.
- 2018b “Architecture, Sociality and the Production of Locality”. In: *Societas/Communitas* 26(2), pp. 27-46 (with Werner Reichmann).
- 2018a “Voices in the city. On the role of arts, artists and urban space for a just city”. In: *CITIES* 91, pp. 49-57.
- 2017b “Der Virtual Urban Walk 3D – Eine integrative Methode zur Analyse kontextbezogener Raumwahrnehmung”. In: *Europa Regional*, pp. 49–64 (with Andreas Müller).
- 2015 *Architecture, Materiality and Society. Connecting the Sociology of Architecture with Science and Technology Studies*. ed. with Werner Reichmann. Houndsmill et al.: Palgrave Macmillan.

Recent Presentations (selection)

- 2025 “‘At home, I don’t feel safe’. Home and home-making under hostile conditions”
Association of American Geographers’ Annual Meeting, Detroit, USA
- 2024 “Decentering migration studies”
IMISCOE Annual Conference, Lisbon, Portugal
- 2023 “Constructing Migration and Otherness. Understanding the Social Power of Classifications and Statistics“
European Social Science History Conference (ESSHC) 2023, Göteborg, Sweden
- 2022 “Thinking migration through its materiality: what science and technology studies can teach us about understanding migration”
18th IMISCOE Annual Conference, Oslo, Norway
- 2021 “Feeling at Home with Objects? On beloved clothes and alienating face masks”
workshop *Oscillating Objects*, organized by Yara Kurimilian (Biladi NGO, Lebanon), Dr Nina Vollenbroker (The Bartlett School of Architecture, UCL, UK) & Dr Marjorie Gehrhardt (University of Reading, UK)
- 2020 “Der Virtual Urban Walk 3D”
Workshop “Mehr als Worte”, *Neuen Kulturgeographie XVII | Technocultures & Technospaces*, Bonn, Germany
- 2019 “Wie sehen wir Migration? Epistemologische Überlegungen zur Darstellung von räumlicher Mobilität”
Deutscher Kongress für Geographie, Kiel, Germany

Research Topics

- international migration
- urban infrastructures & public space
- urban planning & development

Research Projects

My current research project focusses on social and spatial transformations in migration societies and asks how migration-related conflicts contribute to forming and (re)producing social spaces in cities. This research adds to my past work on urban development processes and international

migration respectively.

Already in the research project for my habilitation – *International Migration, Place-Attachment and Materiality. On Socio-spatial Belongings of International Transmigrants* – I worked at the intersection of urban studies and migration studies. My empirical research asked for the ways in which international migrants establish senses of belonging to urban places despite frequently changing locations. Especially in focus were high-skilled migrants, that is those who – presumably – migrate voluntarily. Special attention was on the role of (material) objects for the creation of senses of belonging and attachment to places. For the analysis of my qualitative research data, I thus gained additional insights from the social studies of space, material culture studies and works on globalization.

Another strand of my research addresses the role of infrastructures in urban and rural development. Starting with collaborative research on the transformation processes that occurred in the course of the Covid-19 pandemic and extending this research, I focus on the interrelation of infrastructures, disaster management, and social cohesion. Furthermore, I am highly interested in the interrelation of materiality and sociality in contemporary societies, and in particular in the mutual interdependencies of architecture and society. Here, I am very much influenced by contemporary sociology of space and science and technology studies. This focus is part of my general and long-lasting research interest in contemporary urban development and planning that started with the research on my PhD thesis on *Green Creative Cities*.